

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100190035-0

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CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/OCI/WHIZWH 741219

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE 278

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.Y

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-ML

DATE: 19 DEC 74

SUBJECT: FRENCH TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED HELICOPTER CARRIER

REF: OSR MORNING BRIEFING, 19 DEC 74, CONFIDENTIAL

FRANCE REPORTEDLY WILL BEGIN BUILDING ITS FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED HELICOPTER CARRIER NEXT APRIL. ACCORDING TO A PRESS SOURCE, THE WARSHIP WILL CARRY UP TO 25 LYNX OR 10 SUPER-FRELON HELICOPTERS. THE SHIP REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO CARRY SUPER-HARRIER TYPE VTOL AIRCRAFT WHICH FRANCE HOPES TO BUILD JOINTLY WITH BRITAIN. THE SHIP WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ESCORT MISSIONS, AND TO ANTI-SUBMARINE AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUARD DUTIES.

THE AS YET UNNAMED CARRIER IS SCHEDULED TO REPLACE THE CONVENTIONALLY POWERED HELICOPTER CARRIER, THE ARROMANCHES, WHICH WAS DECOMMISSIONED LAST JANUARY. THE NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 1980. WHEN COMPLETED, THE

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CARRIER WILL BE THE FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED SURFACE WARSHIP IN ANY WEST EUROPEAN NAVY.

PARIS HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WILL HELP SPAIN BUILD A SIMILAR WARSHIP. E2 IMPDET.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: OSR, W EUR, NIO [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE: 19 DEC 74

ORIG: SDO

UNIT: CIA OPS CTR

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E 2 IMPDET

CL BY: 008871